providing for labour protection, social security, minimum wages, etc. for agricultural workers.

Representation to Trade Unions in the Conference is determined on the basis of an established procedure based on varified strength of the trade unions. Sectoral strength is not the only criterion for consideration of representation in the conference.

Inland Air Services and Amenities to Passengers

*109. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Government to revamp and make punctual the inland air services and to provide amenities to the passengers;

(b) whether the private air services are attracting more passengers in comparison to that of the Indian Airlines;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to make Indian Airlines more attractive and profitable; and

(e) the prospective action plan of the Government in view of rising requirement of the domestic air services, increasing number of passengers and operating more air services?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) To provide additional capacity and a competitive market environment, the Air Corporations Act, 1953 was repealed on 1st March, 1994. It enabled the entry of private airlines in the domestic sector which not only provided additional capacity but also improved services for the benefit of the passengers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Indian Airlines is taking steps to improve its product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and increase revenue.

(e) With a view to ensure regular and dependable air transport service in the domestic sector, a review of the policy framework is under consideration.

Draft Bill Regarding Right to Information

*110. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Press Council of India has given a draft Bill to the Government regarding right to information;

(b) if so, the salient features of the draft bill; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A *statement* is enclosed.

(c) The draft Bill on Right to Information formulated by the Press Council of India is under examination of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

STATEMENT

Salient Features of the Draft Bill on Right to Information

The Bill seeks to impart to the citizens of the country the Right to Information relating to affairs of a 'public body' including :

(a) 'State' within the meaning of Article 12 of the Constitution of India;

(b) All public undertakings and non-satutory authorities;

(c) A company, corporation, society, trust, firm or a co-operative society, whether owned or controlled by the Government or by private individuals and institutions whose activities affect the public interest.

2. The public body has been cast the duty of maintaining all records duly catalogued and indexed and making it available to the person requesting information.

3. The right extends to all individuals, whether citizens or not, in so far as the information affects their life and liberty.

4. The information can be withheld by the public body, for reasons to be recorded in writing if —

(a) its disclosure is prejudicial to sovereignty and integrity of the country, or to the security of the State, and friendly relations with foreign Sates, or public order, investigation of an offence or which leads to incitement to an offence;

(b) it is related to personal and medical information and other such information, the disclosure of which has no bearing on public affair and would constitute a clear and unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(c) if it relates to trade and commercial secrets protected by Law.

Provided that information which cannot be denied to the Parliament or the State Legislature shall not be denied to the citizens.

5. The public body has been cast the duty to notify for information of general public such matters within its knowledge and control as are vital to their life, health and livelihood but not commonly known.

6. The custodial establishment shall be required to appoint a visitors' committee which shall have full access at all hours of day and night to the establishment and its records and inmates.

7. The information shall be supplied within thirty days of application except when the information relates to life and liberty of the individual, it shall be supplied within forty eight hours of application.

8. The information shall be supplied in writing either in English or Hindi or in the language of the State within which the informing authority is located, at a nominal fee.

9. The designated person shall be personally responsible for not furnishing the information and liable to pay a penalty of Rs. 50/- for each day of delay.

10. Any individual who knowingly furnishes wrong, false, misleading or incomplete information shall be liable to be punished with a penalty which shall not be less than Rs. 1,000/- and upto a maximum of Rs. 5,000/-.

11. Refusal of information shall be communicated in writing.

12. An appeal against refusal or failure to supply the information sought for or against inadequate or misleading information shall lie to the Principal Civil Judge of the Tehsil or of the District or of the City as the case may be where the informing authority is located. The appellate authority concerned shall dispose of the appeal within thirty days of its filing by a written order and giving reasons for its decision.

13. The bill further provides for protection of action taken in good faith and stipulates that the provisions of this Act shall have overriding effect over the other laws in force.

Unemployed Workers of Closed Industries in Delhi

*111. SHRI VIJAY GOEL
SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether public notice has been issued by the Chairman, Delhi Pollution Control Committee to 168 industries in Delhi, as per Apex Court's directive to stop operation from November, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the employees working in these industries get adequate service-benefits from their respective employers;

(d) whether any directives have so far been issued to the management of these industries to the effect that the affected workers can get their service benefits as per Supreme Court's guidelines;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether any representations have been received regarding denial of the service-benefits etc., to the affected employees; and

(g) if so, the details and number of such complaints received from the respective Labour Unions and the action taken thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (g). In the wake of directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the inter-locutory Application No. 22 in Writ Petition (C) No. 4677 of 1985, 168 industries listed as hazardous-noxious/heavy/large industries are to be closed down on the mid night of 30th November, 1996. In the order dated 8.7.1996 the National Capital Regional Planning Board has been directed to render all assistance to the industries for the purpose of relocation outside Delhi. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has given certain directions regarding the amount of compensation to be paid to the affected workmen. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has also given directions that the workmen employed in the industries which fail to relocate and the workmen who are not willing to shift along with the re-located industries shall be deemed to have been retrenched with effect from 30th November 1996 provided they have been in continuous service for not less than one year in the industries concerned before the said date. Besides the compensation payable under Section 25-F(b) of the Industrial Disputes Act, such workmen will also be given one years wages as additional compensation.

A public notice was issued by the Chairman, Delhi Pollution Control Committee conveying the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, which was published in leading newspapers published from Delhi. The notice, inter-alia, gives a list of 168 industrial units which have to stop functioning in their present location in Delhi by 30.11.1996.

In case of failure to relocate the workers of these industries, Supreme Court has given one month's time from the date on which they stop functioning in Delhi i.e. 30.11.96 for payment of the service benefits to their respective employees. As the stipulated time for giving service benefits is not yet over, the question of denial of service benefits has not risen so far.

For most of these units, the state Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi is the appropriate Government who will have to ensure that due benefits are given to the affected workmen under the ID Act, 1947. However, the Central Government will be writing to the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi requesting them to ensure that the service benefits for affected workers is given as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions and as per the relevant provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.